

[Maritime Payoff]

JUL 6, 1939.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Saul Levitt ————— Herman Partnow

ADDRESS 557 W. 144th Street 557 W. 144th Street

DATE June 1, 1939

SUBJECT MARITIME * PAYOFF

1. Date and time of interview June 1, 1939
2. Place of interview Tavern on 11th Avenue and 21st Street.
3. Name and address of informant Anonymous group of sailors.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. —————
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

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6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C

TEXT OF INTERVIEW (UNEDITED)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Saul Levitt Herman Partnow

ADDRESS 557 West 144th Street 557 West 144th Street

DATE June 1, 1939

SUBJECT MARITIME - PAYOFF

We got a crew bar but I'm goin' up to Budwieser. I'm goin up to Ruppert because there ain't any American beer on the ships. Jus this Heinie beer. Why don the govt do something about it? Onna Roosevelt we're carryin copper, zinc, and stuff for the Heinies. We bring back gold, that's right, that's bein stored away. We ain't got a shippin' industry, we're fourth or fifth. Now the majority in the union says to hell with key positions, to hell with the gold braid and the officer's uniform we're interested in the rank and file. They're not doing any thing about the cadets. I would say I've been at sea for twelve continuous years. When I go ashore I want to hose 'em an' get drunk. My grandfather and my father went to sea and my father don't want me to come back without the officer's gold braid. My father was chief engineer of the Northern Way. Do you want to hear about a strike. My roommate pulled a one man strike in the Gear and Transmission Department of Chevrolet. No, I'll tell you why I don't believe in the CIO. Listen. A mass strike or a mass picket line ain't the right thing to

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do, it ain't American. I can see you're an American. Public sentiment always win, an if it's the truth it wins.

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HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA — Two Polish girls were talking. The bellboy came along. 'Say, why is the captain such a young man.' Such a young man! She thought the bellboy was the captain. Because of the braid and uniform he is so dressed! But this is really so!.....Ha! Do you think the Czechs are defeated, do you think there is no Czechoslovakia? Oh-ho-ho. We have fish one two three days. One girl. I think she was Hungarian. She have seen the line that is over the side. She asked me why do we have so much fish. I point to the line and I said to her the sailors they fish over the side all the time. (All the girls like him.) Even when they have the monthly, they come over for advice and — sure! By gosh I do!

Here's another thing. It's a complete shakedown. The whole merchant marine is in violation of all the laws. The fellers that's examining you don't know anything. If you want your certificate. Asking you questions that they don't know the answers to. That's not protection to American ships an sailors an passengers. The American passenger service we have't any ships. We haven't no shipyards like Swansea or Liverpool. German girls are nice. You can buy 'em. They hate it over there. Listen. You go over there and they're walkin the streets. Some of the prettiest girls you ever saw. For a couple of dollars they'll crawl on the floor all the way over to this country. They'll sleep with you. They'll follow you around like a dog. They'll marry you and come over to this country!

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Havana. Yessir. Or South America. Rio de Janeiro is got the biggest whorehouse district in the world. The girl I liked the most — my mother! Yessir. I had my taxicabs a me own. (S.A.Capetown, Durban).

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When we made fifty dollars a day. Hey! When we made fifty dollars a day — look, son — when people were goin from here to the other country.

I was married in different ports - from an infant to a nigger.

Muscatel it costs the same. I'm a Cherokee. Well...But still I got to have a nickel to go in the subway. Montana. Six months old. Someone asked me why do they call you Cherokee - I said someone broke a chair over my head. You wanna hear a cattle rustlin yar. A day before he gets nine old houn dogs an he starves em before he's stealin his cow. Well, after he bulldogs her an used the knife. He lets those houn dogs go after her ears an chew em off an then he drags the carcass off. Oh my buddy shore!

Honolulu — ideal weather — ideal women — live on a fishhook — Tripics get in your blood. I'd be content to live there. There's not one that's dirty or dishonest. Tropical weather. Menstr. three times a month. WHite, courteous, corageous. That's my paradise. Dy'see Charles Laughton in The Beachcomber (Amer. Indican — ahhah beachcombin that's what he wants) — That was really life. My old man. Bookcase. Robert Louis

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Stevenson. I remember climbin up to get a book. Boston. Now gettin filled up with Portugee.

They call me Smily. Once wanted to dee-port me. Hello! You see him. The Mad Plumber of the Uruguay. Me and my buddy, ain't been doin anything for a year. We come out in a morning. We get a guy like you to buy us coffee. Don't do a thing. A Mexican is a 4 loafer like him and me. I got left by a ship in Tampico, Mexico. I bummed across the country in six weeks. In that country if they know you're an American the prices go up. They can steal your socks without takin your shoes off. I was as high as a balloon in Juarez. Ya can call it a crimp joint. Originally there was just two birds. Durin the night I was high and she put the tree on. In the morning she put the fruit onna tree. A one-eyed Georgia nigger done that tattoo work. My wife wanted somethin else an she got me high and then she had it put on there, MY TURE Love.

White Shirt - That's the way it is. Some guy has a canoe on his chest an before ya know it ya got the Levithan.

I've been in the lousiest jails.
